

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07
IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05 /089 W
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R 101752Z JUN 77
FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2191
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO ALL MBFR MISSIONS
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AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY ANKARA BY POUCH
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK BY POUCH

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF2 MBFR VIENNA 0299

FROM US REP MBFR

USSALTTWO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO
SUBJ: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: SUMMARY REPORT FOR PERIOD JUNE 6-12

1. SUMMARY: IN RESPONSE TO AN AMBIGUOUSLY WORDED QUESTION
FROM AN AUSTRIAN JOURNALIST ABOUT THE FACTUAL BASIS FOR EASTERN
ASSERTIONS THAT APPROXIMATE EQUALITY EXISTED BETWEEN WARSAW
PACT AND NATO FORCES, THE EASTERN SPOKESMAN AT THE JUNE 10

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POST-PLENARY PRESS BRIEFING CONFIRMED THAT THE EAST HAD
TABLED THE OVERALL FIGURE OF 987,000 FOR PACT MILITARY MANPOWER
IN THE REDUCTION AREA AS COMPARED WITH THE FIGURE OF 981,000
GIVEN BY THE WEST FOR NATO FORCES. END SUMMARY.

2. AT THE REGULAR PRESS BRIEFING FOLLOWING THE JUNE 10 PLENARY
MEETING OF THE VIENNA FORCE REDUCTION NEGOTIATIONS, THE EASTERN

SPOKESMAN STATED THAT THE FIGURE TABLED IN JUNE 1976 BY THE EAST FOR OVERALL WARSAW PACT MILITARY MANPOWER IN THE REDUCTION AREA WAS 987,000 AND THAT THE FIGURE GIVEN BY THE WEST FOR COMPARABLE NATO FORCES WAS 981,000. HE DID SO IN RESPONDING TO AN AMBIGUOUSLY WORDED QUESTION FROM AN AUSTRIAN JOURNALIST WHO NOTED THE DIFFICULTY OF ASSESSING, IN THE ABSENCE OF EASTERN DATA, EASTERN ASSERTIONS OF APPROXIMATE EQUALITY BETWEEN WARSAW PACT AND NATO FORCES. IN HIS ANSWER, THE EASTERN SPOKESMAN EMPHASIZED THAT THE DATA INTRODUCED BY EAST AND WEST IN THE NEGOTIATIONS HAD BEEN MADE PUBLIC IN A NUMBER OF WESTERN PRESS ACCOUNTS. (COMMENT: A FOLLOW-UP COMMENT FROM THE SAME JOURNALIST INDICATED HE MAY ACTUALLY HAVE BEEN ASKING ABOUT THE OVERALL EAST-WEST BALANCE OF FORCES. HOWEVER, THE QUESTION WAS PHRASED IN A WAY WHICH ALLOWED LATITUDE FOR PLACING AN EXCLUSIVELY CENTRAL EUROPEAN CONSTRUCTION ON IT. END COMMENT.)

AT THE SAME BRIEFING, EASTERN CORRESPONDENTS PRESSED THE WESTERN SPOKESMAN ABOUT ANY POSSIBLE CHANGES IN THE WESTERN ATTITUDE TOWARD THE EASTERN PROPOSALS FOR AN IMMEDIATE MANPOWER FREEZE AND FOR THE TABLING OF SEPARATE NATIONAL MANPOWER DATA FOR EACH DIRECT PARTICIPANT. IN BOTH INSTANCES, THE WESTERN SPOKESMAN SAID THERE HAD BEEN NO CHANGE.

3. AT ITS JUNE 8 MEETING, THE AD HOC GROUP DISCUSSED THE FRG DATA DISAGGREGATION PROPOSAL CURRENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION AT NATO. THE MAJORITY VIEW WAS THAT, EVEN IF ACCEPTED BY THE EAST, THE FRG PROPOSAL IN ITS PRESENT FORM WOULD NOT ELICIT THE INFORMATION NEEDED TO ESTABLISH THE SOURCES OF THE DISCREPANCY BETWEEN EASTERN DATA AND WESTERN ESTIMATES OF PACT MANPOWER IN THE
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AREA; THAT IT WOULD, IN FACT, ALMOST CERTAINLY BE REJECTED BY THE EAST; AND THAT TO ADVANCE IT IN ITS CURRENT FORM WOULD DAMAGE THE WESTERN POSITION IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. TO MEET THESE DEFICIENCIES, THE MAJORITY HELD THAT THE FRG PROPOSAL SHOULD BE AMENDED TO YIELD THE NATIONAL DESIGNATIONS OF ALL PERSONNEL RATHER THAN, AS CURRENTLY WAS THE CASE, OF ONLY THOSE PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO MAJOR UNITS.

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R 101752Z JUN 77

FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2192

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO ALL MBFR MISSIONS

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AMEMBASSY BERLIN

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FROM US REP MBFR

USSALTTWO

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y PARA NUMBERS (4 VICE 5 AND 5 VICE 6)

4. IN THE JUNE 7 INFORMAL SESSION OF THE VIENNA TALKS, EASTERN REPS CRITICIZED THE UNWILLINGNESS OF WESTERN EUROPEAN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS AND CANADA TO COMMIT THEMSELVES IN A FIRST PHASE TO DO MORE THAN MERELY TAKE PART IN A SECOND PHASE OF NEGOTIATIONS. EASTERN REPS CONTINUED TO BELIEVE THAT, TO BE MEANINGFUL, SUCH A COMMITMENT MUST INCLUDE THE TIME AND SECRET

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SPECIFICATION BY EQUAL PERCENTAGE OF THE SCOPE OF THE SECOND-STAGE REDUCTIONS TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY THESE PARTICIPANTS, BUT SAID THEY WOULD LISTEN TO ANY CONSTRUCTIVE WESTERN ALTERNATIVES FOR DEALING WITH THIS ISSUE. WESTERN REPS RESPONDED TO EASTERN COMPLAINTS ABOUT RECENT NATO DECISIONS TO STRENGTHEN THE ALLIANCE MILITARILY, POINTING OUT THAT THE WARSAW PACT HAS BEEN CONSTANTLY ADDING TO ITS NUMERICAL SUPERIORITY IN MAJOR ARMAMENTS IN THE REDUCTION AREA SINCE THE OUTSET OF THE VIENNA TALKS. WESTERN REPS ALSO STRESSED THE RELEVANCE OF GEOGRAPHIC CONSIDERATIONS TO ANY EVALUATION OF PROPOSED REDUCTION

AND LIMITATION OBLIGATIONS. DURING THE SESSION, THERE WAS AN EXCHANGE OF A FEW ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CONCERNING EASTERN AND WESTERN DATA.

5. CANADIAN REP COX MADE THE ONLY STATEMENT AT THE JUNE 10 PLENARY MEETING. HIS PRESENTATION HIGHLIGHTED THE SERIOUS DEFECTS IN THE EASTERN REDUCTION APPROACH RESULTING FROM ITS TREATMENT OF ALL DIRECT PARTICIPANTS AS IF THEY WERE IDENTICALLY SITUATED AND SHOWED HOW WESTERN PROPOSALS, BY CONTRAST, REFLECTED THE FACT THAT GEOGRAPHY IMPOSED VERY REAL AND SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES AMONG PARTICIPANTS. CANADIAN REP IDENTIFIED EASTERN NEGLECT OF THE GEOGRAPHIC REALITIES AS AN OBSTACLE TO PROGRESS AND STATED THAT, ONCE EASTERN PARTICIPANTS MADE PROPER ALLOWANCE FOR THOSE REALITIES, THE EQUITY OF THE WESTERN APPROACH WOULD BE ALL THE MORE APPARENT. RESOR

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